FISCAL NOTE

SB 2726 - HB 2847

March 9, 2006

SUMMARY OF BILL: Includes the following medals for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as *qualifying periods of armed conflict* for the purpose of providing educational assistance benefits (tuition waiver) for dependents of POWs or deceased veterans:

- Afghanistan Campaign Medal;
- Iraq Campaign Medal; and
- Army Combat Action Badge.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant

Assumptions:

- Current law provides this benefit for children and spouses of service personnel in armed conflicts in which certain medals are awarded.
- The addition of these named medals will not add a new class of recipients to the fee waiver program. It is assumed that the number of dependents who would fall into this category is relatively small; therefore, to allow these dependents to attend a higher education institution without cost is estimated to be a not significant impact on state government expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

James W. White, Executive Director